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MEDIA RELEASE

John P. Wheeler, Jr.
Finney County Attorney

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On Monday, January 25, 2010 at approximately 2:26 a.m. communicators at the Garden City Police Department received a 911 call from a man reporting that someone had broken into the residence at 806 Alfalfa #2 and requested immediate assistance.

Officers arrived on the scene and found a man stabbing a woman repeatedly. The suspect was shot two times by one of the officers and taken into custody. Because of the officer-involved shooting, the Garden City Police Department has requested the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to perform the investigation of this matter.

Arising out of this incident, Mr. Gustavo Ramos-Beleta, DOB 11/06/1963, has been charged with one count of Attempted First Degree Murder, a severity level 1 person felony; one count of Aggravated Burglary, a severity level 5 person felony; one count of Aggravated Intimidation of a Witness or victim, a severity level 6 person felony; one count of Criminal Threat, a severity level 9 person felony; one count of Intimidation of a Witness of a Witness or victim, a class B person misdemeanor; one count of Stalking, a severity level A person misdemeanor; one count of Violation of a Protective Order, a class A person misdemeanor; and one count of Endangering a Child, a class A person misdemeanor.

The charges against Mr. Gustavo Ramos-Beleta are mere allegations. Mr. Ramos-Beleta is presumed to be innocent of the charges against him and that presumption of innocence shall continue until such time as Mr. Ramos-Beleta may be found guilty of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

As is customary in a situation where there is an incident in which an officer exercises the use of deadly or potentially deadly force in Finney County, the Finney County Attorney's Office is called upon to review the facts of the incident to determine whether the officer's use of force, in this case potentially deadly force, was justified under the circumstances.

I have carefully reviewed the reports of the Kansas Bureau's Investigation submitted to this office. It is my conclusion that the officer's use of potentially dangerous force in firing the two shots striking Mr. Ramos-Beleta was completely justified. The force used by the officer was in defense of the life of the victim, was completely reasonable under the circumstances and did, in fact, save the life of the victim.